

# GRANDE RONDE FIRE ZONE

## LOCATION

The Grande Ronde Fire Zone is centrally located on the Wallowa- Whitman National Forest. La Grande is the hub for fire and fire support resources which includes the Grande Ronde Fire Zone, Dispatch, Hotshots, Rappellers, Fire Cache and Tanker Base. The Grande Ronde Valley is surrounded by the Blue Mountains and the Eagle Cap Wilderness within the Wallowa Mountains. There are many scenic areas of interest around the Grande Ronde Fire Zone including Mt. Emily Recreation Area, Catherine Creek, Bird Track Springs and Moss Springs.



## FIRE CREWS

The Grande Ronde Fire Zone is home to 2- Type 6 engine modules, 1- Type 3 engine module and a 10-person I.A. Hand Crew. The engine module configuration is Supervisor Fire Engine Operator, Fire Engine Operator, Assistant Fire Engine Operator and 2 crew members for a total of 5 personnel. The 10-person Hand Crew configuration is Supervisor, Squad Leader, 2 Senior Firefighters and 6 crew members. There are 3 contracted Lookouts on the zone which include Johnson Rock, Point Prominence and Mule Peak. There are also 2- 20 person Hotshot Crews; Union and La Grande. The Grande Ronde Rappellers

which is a 40- person rappel crew with 2- Type 2 Helicopters and 1- Type 1 Helicopter.

## DAILY OPERATIONS

Fire crews begin the day with vehicle checks followed with zone operational briefing. Next is an hour of physical training (PT). Then it is off to the woods for project work. This may include forest stand improvement work, prescribed burn preparation, thinning small diameter trees with chainsaws to reduce hazardous fuels, timber sale and thinning layout. Facilities maintenance projects including historic lookouts and guard stations. We have a fire prevention program that engages the community, with visits from Smokey Bear. Then it is back to the fire warehouse for equipment maintenance and debrief.





## **FIRE SEASON**

Fire season typically starts the beginning of July, peaks in mid-August and ends sometime early October. June is a busy month of preparedness training. The Grande Ronde Fire Zone averages around 25 initial attack fires with a few large fires per season. The Fire Zone helps support large fires in Region 6 (WA, OR) and nationally with our Forest 20 person Type 2 I.A. crew or engine modules. During fire season we could work up to 7 days a week and extended staffing up to 16 hrs. Fire assignments can last up to 14 days, not including travel. So be prepared to be gone for several weeks.

## **CONTACT**

For more information contact Kat Naughton, Grande Ronde Fire Zone AFMO 541-962-8563 [kathleen.naughton@usda.gov](mailto:kathleen.naughton@usda.gov) , or the front desk 541-962-8500 and ask to speak with someone from fire.